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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. 2-1-32

REPORT

Special Branch S. 2-3-32

Date June 12, 1932

Subject (in full) Dimitry Danilovich Fokin and Larisa Vasilievna Kravchenko
alias Kravchenkova.

Made by D.S. Tcheremshinsky.

Forwarded by SSA Hunt

With reference to the attached article from "The Shanghai Sunday Times" of June 19, 1932 entitled "Famous Russian Dancers," enquiries made regarding the matter show that the ballet dancers mentioned in this article are Mr. D.D. Fokin and Miss L.V. Kravchenko alias Kravchenkova. She arrived in Shanghai from Harbin via Dairen on June 16, 1932 by the s.s. "Dairen Maru." They are in possession of Emigrants passports issued by the Kirin Diplomatic Bureau on June 6, 1932. The above-mentioned artists came to Shanghai from Harbin at the invitation of one N.E. Morgenstern, Hungarian, an employee of the Peacock Motion Picture Corp. 21 Museum Road, with whom they have since signed an agreement for one year. Fokin and Kravchenko reside at 326 Rue Cardinal Mercier at the house of their impresario Morgenstern.

During the course of an interview with the ballet dancers the following was learned :-

Dimitry Danilivich Fokin-Pahomoff is a Russian 30 years of age, and a native of Tambov Province. He is the son of a farmer and from early childhood resided with his parents in Astrakhan. He was educated in a Trade School and later in a Private Ballet school where he remained with the support of his elder brother. In 1918 he joined the "Volga Flotilla" of the White Russian Navy. He was wounded in action near the Kazan and recuperated the Kazan and Samara hospitals. Discharged from hospital he returned to his parents at Astrakhan but during the journey was arrested and imprisoned for 1½ months in Volok as a suspected "White" but was later released under an amnesty on the anniversary of the October Revolution, and then proceeded to Astrakhan.

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From 1919 onwards for the next three years he was employed as a ballet dancer in a government theatre at Baku, Kavkaz.

From 1923 to 1930 he was employed as a ballet dancer and ballet master in various towns in south and middle Russia and Turkestan. Periodically he visited Moscow for training in the Great Moscow Theatre Ballet School. In September, 1930 he left for Vladivostok. Here he was employed for two months in the State Theatre. In November 1931 he made an attempt to escape from U.S.S.R., but was arrested by the Frontier Guard of G.P.U. near village Strigovka. He was imprisoned in Nikolai-Ussuriysk and Vladivostok for several months and in April 1932 was charged with attempting an illegal crossing of the boundary and was sentenced to \$100 fine.

After his release he was working casually as a ballet dancer in various clubs and theatres. In July 1931 Tokin made a second and successful attempt to escape from U.S.S.R. and crossed boundary near Grodekovo and Pogranichnaya stations. After his arrival in Harbin he was casually employed in local theatres. In November 1931 he organized the escape of his partner L.V. Kravchenko with the assistance of a smugglers organization. From December to February he was employed at the Cabaret "Fantasia" and from March 1931 he again worked casually and also owned a ballet school. During the early part of June he was engaged by Morgenstern as mentioned in the first part of this report.

Larisa Vasilievna Kravchenko alias Kravchenkova, is a Russian being born in 1908 in Nat - Madyedizkaya, Don Prov. She is the daughter of a clerhyman of Cossack origin. In 1912

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her parents left for Kazan where her father was studying in a Ecclesiastical Academy. In 1916 she accompanied her parents to Baku Kavkaz to which place her father had been transferred. In 1917, owing to bad health she left with her mother for Wologda, North Russia, but returned to Tula after the commencement of the civil war. In 1918 her father was arrested and sentenced to two years imprisonment and expelled for two years from certain cities. In 1920 her mother died. In 1923 Kravchenko left for Pskov where her father then resided and she then obtained employment as a ballet dancer. In 1929 she left with an impresario named Amirago for Turkestan and visited several towns in that country. In December 1930 she left for Vladivostok where she was employed in a State Theatre and also appeared in Habarovsk and Blagoveshensk theatres. In November 1931 she escaped from U.S.S.R. aided by some men hired by Fokin and proceeded to Harbin where she worked in several theatres.

There is nothing in Police records to the detriment of Fokin and Kravchenko.

G. Tchermshansky
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

*File
25.6.32*

FAMOUS RUSSIAN DANCERS

Reach Shanghai After
Exciting Runaway
From Soviet

"Fokien and Kravchenko" have arrived in Shanghai following a thrilling escape from Soviet Russia, where their appearances in the largest academical theatres in Moscow and Leningrad have always been accompanied by great success.

For a long time Fokien and his beautiful partner Miss Kravchenko desired to go abroad, where they would have opportunities to repeat the successes they had experienced in their Homeland, but the authorities refused to visa their passports. After waiting a period of two years, they gave up hope of obtaining legal permission to leave Soviet Russia and decided to escape. Followship many futile attempts, they at last succeeded in crossing the Manchuria border on foot, walking by night and hiding by day. Their story being eagerly listened to by kindhearted country folk they were fed by willing hands.

Their first appearance in their new world, was in Harbin where they were acclaimed as artists of extraordinary ability. Fukien and Miss Kravchenko will soon appear locally and "Shanghai" theatre-goers will have an opportunity of seeing them perform. Their appearance is anticipated with keen interest in the local theatrical world.

52, For comment please

S. S. Schenishansky

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